November, 1990 under the heading "Drug Cos. to Defy Fresh Order to pay up dues";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that his Ministry asked 30 pharmaceutical companies to pay up the arrears by November, 9, 1990;

(c) what are the names of the companies and what is the amount due from each company;

(d) how many Companies have deposited the amount and what action has been taken against the defaulters:

(e) whether it is also a fact that notices have been issued to IDPL and other publice sector units; and

(f) if so, what is the amount due against each and since when?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the companies have been asked to pay the balance amount due from them.

(c) to (f) Requisite details have been furnished in reply to Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 396 answered on 31-12-1990.

Shortage of essential drugs

279. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

Whether there is a shortage of anti-T.B., anti-Cancer, anti-typhoid, anti-malaria, anti-pyretic and antibiotic drugs in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what action is proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. P. MALAVIYA): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of these drugs in general. However, there was shortage in some areas, of some particular brands for which therapeutic equivalents were available.

ONGC officers sent abroad for training

280. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers sent for training abroad by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission during the last five years and the amount spend thereon;

(b) whether officers|employees belonging to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes have also been set abroad for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) During the last five years i.e. from 1985-86 to 1989-90, 1843 officers including 97 belonging to Scheduled Castes and 11 belonging to Scheduled Tribes were sent by ONGC for training|workshops abroad. A sum of Rs. 6.85 crores was spent for the above purpose.

Shortage of medicine plants

281. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is continuous depletion in the sources of various herbs and plants required in the manufacture of various medicines in the country;